

say thank you. There are times I wouldn't say thank you that you beat me on the floor, but I respected how hard you worked at it. I am a better Member because you made me prepare more, knowing you were on the other side.

I thank you for your counsel and for your friendship. You will be missed on this floor, but we will still be friends.

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COVID RELIEF PACKAGE

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to implore my colleagues to come together and pass a COVID relief bill that will help communities that are still struggling to recover from this pandemic.

Since the beginning of December, over 150 people a day have died from COVID-19 in Illinois. Across the Midwest, heat maps are glowing red with the increased rates of transmissions and deaths. We cannot wait any longer. Families and small businesses are looking for Congress to act. Time and time again, we have seen the House take action, only to have the GOP Senate ignore the crisis facing this country. The increase in empty chairs around kitchen tables and vacant storefronts will only continue if we do not take decisive action.

Mr. Speaker, a recent study found that 1 in 3 African Americans know someone close to them who died of COVID-19. I fall into this category, as I lost my uncle in May, and I know many of my constituents do as well. Something has to be done. People need money now to meet their expenses. Businesses need support now to continue operating, and State and local governments need assistance now to provide services. Inaction is not an option.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, I say Happy Hanukkah to all our Jewish friends.

RECOGNIZING CUBA'S PRO-DEMOCRACY ACTIVISTS

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the brave action of the pro-democracy leaders in Cuba and the brutal repression that they face as a result of their demands for freedom.

For example, in the last few weeks, the San Isidro Movement has stepped up its calls for freedom and the release of all political prisoners. Their protests include such dangerous activities as poetry readings and sit-ins. And for that, these young rappers, artists, and writers have faced arbitrary arrests, harassment, and abuse.

Mr. Speaker, some remain in prison, which is why many activists have

begun a hunger strike in protest. But despite the brutal repression in Cuba, the pro-democracy movement is growing. Mothers, scientists, and so many others have joined its calls for freedom and the release of political prisoners.

I commend President Trump and his administration for their solidarity with the Cuban people in imposing serious sanctions against the Cuban dictatorship. We must all stand with the brave pro-democracy activists in Cuba, who are risking their lives at this very moment, and join them in their pleas for freedom and the immediate unconditional release of all political prisoners.

IN HONOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, FREE THE PANCHEN LAMA

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on Human Rights Day, we mark the adoption of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. Speaker, 72 years ago, China was among the countries committing itself to the principle that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." In this spirit, I call on the Chinese Government to release Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the 11th Panchen Lama.

In May of 1995, only days after Gedhun Choekyi Nyima was chosen to serve as the 11th Panchen Lama, the Chinese Government kidnapped him and his family. The outside world has neither seen nor heard from them since. Chinese authorities tell the world that the Panchen Lama and his family are safe, and they say that they are well, but they refuse to allow anyone to visit and verify his well-being.

Mr. Speaker, the Universal Declaration enshrines the rights to liberty and religious freedom and precludes arbitrary detention. China should honor its international obligations by freeing the true Panchen Lama.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES ELLZY

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a very special human being, Mr. Charles Ellzy, who our community lost earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, Charles was a proud graduate of Bensalem High School and Temple University.

In 1963, Charles met the love of his life, Rosia. They would go on to have two children, Samantha and Vincent.

Charles dedicated his entire life to bettering our community. He spent over 25 years working for the Department of Defense in Philadelphia, and Charles was also the president of the Lin-Park Civic Association.

Under his leadership, the LPCA established a community baseball league, organized fundraising events, and collaborated with Betz Laboratories to create the Lin-Park Betz Scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, Charles also served for years as a deacon at the Linconia Tabernacle Christian Center in Bensalem. His connection and love for God fueled his complete and total dedication to others.

And in August, the Bensalem Township Council unanimously passed a resolution renaming Warren Avenue to Charles Ellzy Way in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I had the honor of joining Charles' family and congregants of the Linconia Tabernacle Christian Center for the unveiling of such a fitting tribute to an amazing man.

Mr. Speaker, we are extremely grateful for Charles' contributions, for his 80 years of life, and may the spirit of his generosity and service continue to inspire our community. Charles is now reaping the reward of a life he spent serving others.

RECOGNIZING COLORADO'S FIREFIGHTERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

(Mr. NEGUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt gratitude to our Colorado firefighters and first responders.

This year in Colorado, in my district, we have experienced a devastating and relentless wildfire season; the Cameron Peak fire in Larimer County, the East Troublesome fire in Grand County, the Calwood fire, and the Williams Fork fire.

With over a half a million acres burned, Colorado has experienced great loss, damage, and destruction. For months, our firefighters and first responders have worked around the clock to save lives, save homes, and to protect our communities. We know this work is not easy, especially in the midst of a pandemic, and we are so grateful for the service, the sacrifice, and the commitment of our firefighters, our first responders, our local emergency management officials and law enforcement in Grand County, in Larimer County, in Boulder County, and across the State of Colorado.

Together, we will rebuild and we will continue to work together. Thank you for your work. We are so incredibly grateful.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT E. JAMES, II

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Savannah native, Robert E. James, II, of

Carver State Bank on his election as chair of the National Bankers Association.

The National Bankers Association is based in Washington, D.C., and has represented minority-owned and women-owned banks in the U.S. since 1927.

Mr. James wears many hats. He serves Carver State Bank as its director of Strategic Initiatives and is a member of its board of directors; is a partner at the law firm, Golden Holley James, LLP; and is president of Coastal Legacy Group, LLC, which is a real estate development and consulting firm he founded in 2004.

When he was earning his law degree at Harvard, he received a legal training scholarship and was elected president of Harvard Black Law Students Association, as well. By stepping up to the plate to lead the National Bankers Association, he has demonstrated his dedication to serving his community and contributing to the success of the American banking industry as a whole.

Congratulations, again, on this great accomplishment. Mr. Speaker, I wish Mr. James the very best.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I know that we will be discussing COVID-19, and I cannot stand on this floor without ever mentioning that we must help the American people.

But today I stand on this floor to acknowledge the existence of the Electoral College.

Mr. Speaker, many Americans are unfamiliar with this very interesting fixture in law. Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution gives us the Electoral College. But let me be very clear. In the next couple of days, many States will certify those who have voted. The Electoral College will meet, by the Constitution, on December 14. Most State legislators have indicated that the electors are to vote the popular vote. All of the battleground States have certified that the next President and Vice President of the United States are Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS.

What is my plea today?

My plea today is for us to harmoniously join together in recognizing the value of this Constitution, the sanctity of democracy, and to proceed as a House and Senate to embrace this election and the victors.

Why?

Because the Nation needs us, and the Constitution says so.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to us working together.

CONGRATULATING REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL CONAWAY ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank, celebrate, and congratulate my friend and colleague, MIKE CONAWAY, who will be leaving us to enjoy his much-deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a tremendous privilege and honor to serve under MIKE's leadership throughout my time on the Committee on Agriculture, and I am grateful to have worked with such a tireless advocate for rural America.

MIKE's leadership on the 2018 farm bill was particularly impressive, which marked the first time in nearly 30 years that a farm bill was enacted in the same year that it was introduced. I continue to be inspired by MIKE's principles in leadership outside of committee work as well. I have been lucky enough to share many Wednesday mornings with him as a brother of faith during Bible study.

Mr. Speaker, I send my very best wishes to MIKE and his wife, Suzanne, who has been kind enough to share him with us for over the last 16 years.

I thank MIKE for his friendship and guidance over the years. He will be sincerely missed.

COVID RELIEF FOR AMERICANS

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, it has been 257 days since the first major COVID relief package was signed into law—257 days. In that time period, COVID cases in the U.S. have skyrocketed, and we have lost almost 290,000 Americans.

The devastation this virus has wrought on our families, our communities, and our economy is enormous. But it would have been so much worse if we had not provided that early relief to our families, our small businesses, and workers impacted by the spring surge. And economists are clear that we need to provide more direct relief in order to buoy the economy, much less to keep people safe.

The relief that we are seeking, that the American people are seeking is not a handout. It is a lifeline. It is critical to get relief in the hands of families, small businesses, frontline workers, and local governments so we can get the virus under control. But, also, so we can get the country back to work once we do so.

Mr. Speaker, time is of the essence. Unemployment is running out, small businesses—and especially, restaurants—are closing. Families are facing eviction and foreclosure.

Mr. Speaker, fighting this pandemic has been hard enough on the American people. Getting them the relief they need to stay safe and healthy shouldn't be.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021, AND OTHER EXTENSIONS ACT

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8900) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8900

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021, and Other Extensions Act".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

Sec. 3. References.

DIVISION A—FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

DIVISION B—HEALTH EXTENDERS

Title I—Medicare and Medicaid Extenders

Title II—Public Health Extenders and Food and Drug Administration Provisions

Title III—Offsets

Title IV—Budgetary Effects

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A—FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SEC. 101. The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 (division A of Public Law 116-159) is amended by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting "December 18, 2020".

This division may be cited as the "Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021".

DIVISION B—HEALTH EXTENDERS

TITLE I—MEDICARE AND MEDICAID EXTENDERS

SEC. 1101. EXTENSION OF THE WORK GEOGRAPHIC INDEX FLOOR UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

Section 1848(e)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(e)(1)(E)), as amended by section 3801 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136) and section 2201 of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act (Public Law 116-159), is amended by striking "December 12, 2020" and inserting "December 19, 2020".

SEC. 1102. EXTENSION OF FUNDING OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS.

(a) STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS.—Subsection (a)(1)(B)(xi) of section 119 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1395b-3 note), as amended by section 3306 of the Patient